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CONSTRUCTION OF HYDROSTATIONS FOR COMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATIONS

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In the Uzbek and Tadzhik SSRs, the Caucasus mountain regions, and the Altay, about the only method of obtaining electric nower is by the utilization of high mountain rivers. Therefore, the problem of creating a power base for communications installations (radio stations, telephone and telegraph installations, amplifier stations, radio receiving and FA systems, etc.), and the electrification of mountain regions by the erection of hydrostations, is acute.

In this periodical we have previously noted the effectiveness of the hydrostations in Kulyab. Unfortunately, all these stations have ceased operations.

What caused this? First of all, the lack of aid to the regions in operating, planning, and supplying equipment and materials for the construction of hydrostations. Neither the Technical Department nor the Central Scientific Research Institute of the Ministry of Communications concerns itself with this problem.

There is not one word in the plans of the Administration for Technical Schools and Institutes about the training of specialists for this work. All popular textbooks and courses, according to current sources, are also silent on this subject.

The construction of hydrostations in local areas is mainly carried out on the initiative of local radio and communications technicians. For the abovementioned reasons they cannot obtain technical help, and often construction which has been begun must cease.

At one time, the resources released for the construction of a hydrostation in Kulyab were not utilized because all authorities, from the representatives of the Ministry of Communications to the heads of the regional offices, completely excluded themselves from this project.

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It is known that the construction of a hydrostation is not complicated and does not require large capital expenditures. However, in practice, certain difficulties are encountered. The ordinary communications technician must decide upon the drop height of water, how to determine the speed of its flow, how many blades to use in the turbine, how to calculate the gear ratio for the drive mechanism, etc. In the absence of publications, consultations, measuring instruments, and apparatus, such problems must frequently be solved on an unsound basis.

The following measures are necessary for the construction of a hydrostation serving communications installations in mountainous, unelectrified regions.

The Central Branch of the Ministry of Communications must determine where it is possible and necessary to construct hydrostations for supplying electric power to communications installations. On this basis, the Central Branch should commission the Communications-Planning Trust to work out a standard technical project for such hydrostations.

The Engineering Department and the Central Scientific Research Institute of the Ministry of Communications should prepare handbooks, standards, estimates, and instructions for aiding builders and technicians.

The training of hydrostation specialist-technicians should be provided for in 1947.

After their construction, the general management and control of these hydrostations, should be entrusted to the Administration for Capital Construction in the Ministry of Communications.

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